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- 1 24. A method of scheduling an event with respect to a hard copy
 - 2 output engine including a sensor, comprising:
 - 3 detecting status information relating to the hard copy engine using
 - 4 the sensor, including status of a future need for maintenance of the hard
 - 5 copy output engine and billing information for job accounting;
 - 6 composing an electronic message including the detected status;
 - 7 and
 - 8 transmitting the electronic message to a scheduling engine.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein detecting includes detecting a
2 toner low or toner out status.

1 26. The method of claim 24, wherein composing an electronic
2 message includes composing the electronic message to include information
3 chosen from a list consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable, blind
4 carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected completion date,
5 defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date, follow-up flag,
6 importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind beforehand,
7 reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list, resources,
8 sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status, consumables
9 order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative maintenance
10 items.

1 27. The method of claim 24, wherein detecting a status includes
2 detecting a status from a list of status items consisting of: toner out, toner
3 low, preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or replacement of
4 component parts, consumables orders, internal billing dates for job
5 accounting, external billing dates for job accounting, low paper, out of paper,
6 low consumables, out of consumables, and need maintenance.

1 28. The method of claim 24, wherein the hard copy output engine
2 is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and
3 printers.

1 29. The method of claim 24, wherein transmitting the electronic
2 message to a scheduling engine comprises transmitting an electronic
3 message including a consumable order.

1 30. The method of claim 24, wherein detecting a future need for
2 preventative maintenance includes detecting a future need for cleaning or
3 replacement of a component part.

1 31. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer
2 usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein to cause a
3 processor to:

4 detect a status of a portion of a hard copy output engine from a sensor
5 incorporated in the hard copy output engine, the detecting a status including
6 detecting a future need for preventative maintenance and billing information for
7 job accounting;

8 compose an electronic message including the detected status; and
9 transmit the electronic message to a scheduling engine.

1 32. The article of manufacture of claim 31, wherein the computer
2 readable code is further configured to cause the processor to detect a toner low
3 or toner out status.

1 33. The article of manufacture of claim 31, wherein the computer
2 readable code is further configured to cause the processor to compose an
3 electronic message including information chosen from a list consisting of:
4 percentage of remaining consumable, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company
5 addressed to, expected completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event
6 address, expiration date, follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return
7 receipt request status, remind beforehand, reminder, reminder override default,
8 required attendee list, resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee,
9 tracking status, consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and
10 preventative maintenance items.

1 34. The article of manufacture of claim 31, wherein the computer
 2 readable code is further configured to cause the processor to detect at least one
 3 of the following status items: toner out, toner low, preventative maintenance
 4 alerts, including cleaning or replacement of component parts, consumables
 5 orders, internal billing dates for job accounting, external billing dates for job
 6 accounting, low paper, out of paper, low consumables, out of consumables, and
 7 need maintenance.

1 35. The article of manufacture of claim 31, wherein the computer
 2 readable code is further configured to cause the processor to detect a status of
 3 a hard copy output engine chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile
 4 machines, photocopiers and printers.

1 36. The article of manufacture of claim 31, wherein the computer
 2 readable code is further configured to cause the processor to transmit an
 3 electronic message including a consumable order.

1 37. The article of manufacture of claim 31, wherein the computer
 2 readable code is further configured to cause the processor to detect a future
 3 need for cleaning or replacement of a component part.

1 38. (Amended) A computer implemented control system for a hard
 2 copy output engine, the system comprising:

3 a plurality of sensors coupled to the hard copy output engine, the sensors
 4 being configured to provide status information relating to a plurality of aspects
 5 of the hard copy output engine; and

6 processing circuitry coupled to the sensors and configured to:

7 read the sensors and detect the status of the aspects of the hard
 8 copy engine, the aspects including the need for preventative maintenance and
 9 billing information for job accounting;

10 compose an electronic message including the detected status; and
 11 transmit the electronic message to a scheduling engine.

1 39. The computer implemented control system of claim 38, wherein
2 the processing circuitry is further configured to detect a toner low or toner out
3 status.

40. The computer implemented control system of claim 38, wherein
the processing circuitry is further configured to compose the electronic message
to include information chosen from a list consisting of: percentage of remaining
consumable, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected
completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date,
follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind
beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list,
resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status,
consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative
maintenance items.

41. (Amended) The computer implemented control system of claim
38, wherein the aspects of the hard copy output engine include: toner out, toner
low, preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or replacement of
component parts, consumables orders, low paper, out of paper, low
consumables, out of consumables, and need maintenance.

42. The computer implemented control system of claim 38, wherein
the processing circuitry is further configured to detect a status of a hard copy
output engine chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines,
photocopiers and printers.

43. The computer implemented control system of claim 38, wherein
the processing circuitry is further configured to detect a future need for cleaning
or replacement of a component part.

1 44. A method of scheduling an event with respect to a hard copy
2 output engine, comprising:

3 detecting a status of the hard copy output engine using a plurality of
4 sensors incorporated in the hard copy output engine, including detecting a future
5 need for preventative maintenance, and detecting toner out, toner low,
6 preventative maintenance alerts, cleaning or replacement of component parts,
7 consumables orders, internal billing dates for job accounting, external billing
8 dates for job accounting, low paper, out of paper, low consumables, out of
9 consumables, and need maintenance;

10 composing an electronic message including the detected status and
11 including information relating to all of the following: percentage of remaining
12 consumable, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected
13 completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date,
14 follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind
15 beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list,
16 resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status,
17 consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative
18 maintenance items; and

19 transmitting the electronic message to a scheduling engine.

1 45. A computer implemented control system for a hard copy output
2 engine, the system comprising:

3 a plurality of sensors coupled to the hard copy output engine, the sensors
4 being configured to provide status information for at least one of the following:
5 a future need for preventative maintenance, toner low, tone out, preventative
6 maintenance alerts, need cleaning of component parts, need replacement of
7 component parts, paper low, paper out, consumables low, consumables out,
8 internal billing information for job accounting, external billing information for job
9 accounting, and need maintenance; and

processing circuitry coupled to the sensors and configured to:

detect the status information and to compose an electronic message including the detected status, the message including information relating to at least one of the following: percentage of remaining consumable, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date, follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list, resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status, consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative maintenance items; and

transmit the electronic message to a scheduling engine.

46. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the transmitting comprises outputting the electronic message comprising billing information from the hard copy output engine.

47. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 31, wherein the computer readable code is further configured to cause the processor to output the electronic message comprising billing information from the hard copy output engine to transmit the electronic message.

48. (New) The computer implemented control system of claim 38, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to output the electronic message comprising billing information from the hard copy output engine to transmit the electronic message.

49. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the transmitting comprises outputting the electronic message comprising billing information from the hard copy output engine.